

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Armenia
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	111-0210
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$7,500,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,211,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$6,000,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID/Armenia's Democracy and Governance Strategic Objective seeks to achieve more transparent, accountable, and democratic governance by focusing on: enhanced citizen participation; strengthened civil society/non-governmental organizations (NGOs), non-state media, local governments and legislature; promotion of rule of law; and anti-corruption efforts.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$3,005,000 FSA, \$322,000 FSA carryover, \$200,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will promote civic activism in Armenia by providing tailored technical assistance and funding for a select group of advanced advocacy NGOs. Funding will enable NGOs to recruit and maintain a core staff, to ensure solid planning and administrative services, and to launch new initiatives independently. USAID will assist in the development of intermediary service organizations that offer expertise, counseling, and training to the NGO community. An increased focus on youth will be an integral part of USAID's democracy program. Additionally, USAID will provide technical assistance and grants for anti-corruption activities initiated by civil society to mobilize popular will into action against corruption. Principal grantees: Counterpart International, the Academy for Educational Development (AED) (prime), Junior Achievement of Armenia (JAA) (sub), and others to be determined (TBD).

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,300,000 FSA, \$266,000 FSA carryover). Enhancing the professionalism and financial viability of Armenia's independent media outlets will continue to be a priority. USAID's program will enable non-state media outlets to strengthen their ability to operate as businesses. To this end, USAID will develop a television and radio ratings system and a media loan program with corresponding business management technical assistance for targeted media outlets. Principal grantee: International Research and Exchange Board (IREX).

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$950,000 FSA, \$133,000 FSA carryover, \$200,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will continue strengthening the National Assembly (NA). Assistance will focus on increasing the representational and oversight role of the NA. USAID will promote women's participation in politics and will conduct a political party assessment. Principal contractors: Development Associates, Inc. (prime), Development Alternatives, Inc. (sub), TBD.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,130,000 FSA, \$200,000 FSA carryover, \$510,000 FSA prior year recoveries). The program will emphasize strengthening local government capacity, increasing responsiveness to citizens, and promoting policy reform aimed at furthering decentralization. USAID will roll out its current pilot program nationally. Principal contractor: TBD.

Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$1,115,000 FSA, \$380,000 FSA carryover). USAID will provide technical assistance and training to the judiciary as it develops reforms to increase judicial independence and formulates and implements a code of ethics. USAID will strengthen

the organizational capacity of the lawyers' association and develop legal clinics associated with universities. USAID will begin a new project to improve court administration and promote transparency, particularly the development of a court recording system. Principal contractors: American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), TBD.

FY 2006 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,584,000 FSA). USAID will continue a broad program of assistance to advocacy NGOs and support for youth activism and community involvement in public affairs as described above. USAID will continue to support public awareness campaigns, involving NGOs, media, and the private sector, that cover both the costs of corruption and the shared responsibility in combating it. Principal grantees: Counterpart International, AED, JAA, and TBD.

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,600,000 FSA) USAID will continue its media loan program and direct technical assistance to targeted independent media. Principal contractor: IREX.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$381,000 FSA). USAID plans to continue legislative strengthening, particularly in the conduct of formal open hearings and improving committee staff skills to review analyze and offer commentary on incoming legislative initiatives. Principal contractors: DAI and TBD.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$760,000 FSA) USAID will continue human and institutional capacity building with local governments throughout the country. Principal contractor: TBD.

Improve Justice Sector/ Legal Framework (\$675,000 FSA) USAID will assist the judiciary in implementing reforms achieved in 2005. USAID will also continue assistance to improve court administration. Principal contractor: ABA/CEELI, TBD.

Performance and Results: In FY 2004, with USG assistance, over 13,000 people participated in 240 town hall meetings to discuss citizens' concerns with community leaders. In over 660 dialogue groups held around the country, citizens discussed the law on the legal status of property, community schools, privatization, community development, and apartment building administration among numerous other issues. Actions taken as a result of the dialogue groups included renovation of a state college and establishment of a library fund for the college, city clean-ups, legalization of informal construction by building residents, and sanitation improvements in the communities. Additionally, 112,000 community members, government officials, NGOs and businesses participated in volunteer actions in over 1,200 events. USG technical assistance helped independent media outlets improve their business acumen, address marketing concerns, and improve the objectivity of their reporting.

USG programs helped local governments to improve internal management systems, implement transition reforms, strengthen oversight and fiscal responsibilities and increase public accessibility and accountability. Local government budget revenues increased due to improved asset planning and tax collection and administration. The National Assembly's Control Chamber exercised its oversight responsibilities, issuing a high-profile annual report that was critical of Government actions in various sectors.

Completion of this strategic objective will lead to improved democratic governance through expanded civic participation and strengthened governance institutions.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Armenia

111-0210 Democracy and Governance	FSA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	58,711
Expenditures	49,864
Unliquidated	8,847
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	8,952
Expenditures	9,073
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	67,663
Expenditures	58,937
Unliquidated	8,726
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	2,211
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	7,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	9,711
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	6,000
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	83,374